



## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Vegetation and Emergency Roadside Clearance ORC Canyon Communities		
PROJECT LOCATION	Silverado, Modjeska, Trabuco, and William Canyons	COUNTY	Orange
LEAD AGENCY	Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA)		
CONTACT	Kim Brown, Fire Prevention Specialist	PHONE	(714) 573-6175
ADDRESS	PO Box 57115 Irvine, CA 92619-7115		

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project goal is to reduce hazardous fuels along private roadways located in the SRA. The treatment area is approximately 8 acres. The project will provide a benefit to homes located in canyon communities of Orange County, Silverado, Williams, Modjeska, and Trabuco. This project will include raising the canopy and brushing back vegetation from the edge of the road surface on both sides of private roads within the communities. The project will reduce the risks associated with wildfire to the habitable structures in by reducing the vegetation on narrow, private roads, improving ingress and egress. The vegetation in some areas currently encroaches on the roadways, limiting visibility and slowing emergency response. These roads are critical for emergency access and are often the only way in and out of the communities. The reduction of the vegetation will not only improve access, but will reduce the fuel load (including ladder fuels) around the densely-packed homes and increase defensible space. This fuel reduction project will also improve visibility allowing for faster response times to stop a structure fire from spreading to the WUI, and threatening additional structures and communities. Project activities will consist of removing encroaching vegetation, pruning/thinning existing vegetation, and the removal of dead or dying vegetation. The final desired clearance will be a minimum of fifteen feet of vertical clearance along existing private roadways and five feet from the edge of the road surface. The cut vegetation will be moved to predetermined sites (OCFA Fire Station 14, 16, and 18) to be chipped into green waste bins and hauled away to green waste facilities. The work will be completed by the California Conservation Corp or the Orange County Fire Authority hand crews. All work will be completed along existing roads.

### EXEMPTION STATUS

- |                                     |   |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Categorical Exemption                         | Type/Section: Class 4§15304 Minor Alterations to Land |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Statutory Exemption (state code section):     |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)             |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c)) |   |

### REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project meets the requirements of a Class 4 Categorical Exemption "15304 Minor Alterations to Land"

Field review by OCFA staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Orange County Fire Authority has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems.

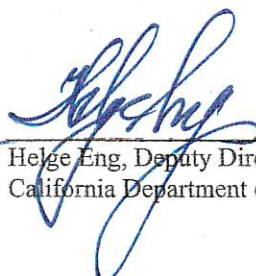
Documentation of the environmental review completed by the OCFA is kept on file with the Pre-Fire Management Section at OCFA's Regional Fire Operations Training Center, 1 Fire Authority Rd., Irvine, CA 92602

### DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

OCT 16 2017

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

 10/12/17  
Helge Eng, Deputy Director Date  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection